

Workforce Development Division (WDD)

September 10, 2012 WDC Meeting

1. Workforce Investment Act (WIA)

- a. Formula grant WIA Program Year (PY) 2012 annual spending plans were reviewed and approved as part of the contracting process between the State and the four Counties. Twelve of sixteen contracts were executed and became effective on July 1, 2012. Modifications to PY 2011 contracts were also executed to replace planning estimates with actual allocations provided in Training and Employment Guidance Letter No. 26-10 and issued in WIA Bulletin No. 03-11, Change 2, issued on February 3, 2012.
- b. The Federal government approved a no-cost extension through September 30, 2012 for the On-the-Job Training (OJT) *American Recovery and Reinvestment Act WIA National Emergency Grant*. By June 2012, the State had met its goal of having forty participants in OJT contracts with private sector employers.

2. Veterans Programs

- a. Veterans Retraining Assistance Program (VRAP)

USDOL ETA and the Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) formed a partnership with DVA in the lead, to provide eligible, unemployed veterans with up to **12 months of full-time retraining** assistance at a DVA approved community college or technical school that results in an associate's degree or certificate leading to employment in a high-demand occupation, as determined by the USDOL Bureau of Labor and Statistics.

WDD Administration hosted a conference call for WDD Branch Managers, Jobs for Veterans State Grant (JSVG) funded staff, United States Veterans Initiative staff, and Oahu WorkLinks One-Stop Center managers to pass on information about VRAP.

- National Goal is to register 45,000 during FY 2012, and 54,000 during the period Oct 1, 2012 thru March 31, 2014 through use of the Virtual Online Application (VONAPP) website.
- USDOL verifies age of the veteran, unemployment status, and any State or Federal-funded training program used by veterans within 18 months of VRAP enrollment.
- Once VRAP training is completed, USDOL will contact veterans to initiate employment assistance services.

- b. Gold Card Initiative

To help veterans succeed in today's job market, ETA and VETS developed the Gold Card Initiative to provide **unemployed, post 9/11 era** veterans with up to **six months of**

intensive and follow-up services, with a minimum of one contact per month,. During the first eight months of the initiative (November 7, 2011 - June 30, 2012) 1,465 post 9/11 veterans were enrolled in Wagner-Peyser program in Hawaii, of which 715 received staff-assisted or intensive services.

c. **Jobs for Veterans State Grant (JSVG)**

JSVG allotment for FY 2013 (October 1, 2012 through September 30, 2013) is \$649,000, which supports WDD's four Disabled Veterans Outreach Program staff, and three Local Veterans Outreach Program staff.

3. Reemployment and Eligibility Assessment Initiative (REA)

- a. ETA awarded funds to 21 states to pilot this Unemployment Insurance (UI) REA initiative. Since its inception in March 2005, Hawaii has assisted over 36,000 UI claimants with their reemployment efforts.
- b. Once determined eligible for UI, REA staff provide claimants with labor market information and help with developing work-search plans to hasten their return to work.
- c. In 2010, average savings for 5,265 claimants amounted to \$1,878,026. After program costs of \$703,100 were deducted, net savings of \$1,174,926 to the UI trust fund were realized.
- d. In FY 2012, Hawaii's REA initiative is expected to reduce the duration of UI collection by about 0.7 weeks and decrease UI payments by approximately \$1.8 million.

4. Emergency Unemployment Compensation (EUC) – REA Program

- a. The EUC-REA program began in April 2012 and targeted individuals who begin receiving EUC First Tier benefits or who transition from First Tier to Second Tier benefits.
- b. These UI claimants are provided with labor market and career information, an assessment of their skills, orientation to One-Stop services and an individual eligibility review related to job search activities.
- c. Thus far, over 2,400 UI claimants have received assistance through the EUC-REA program.

5. Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP)

- a. Hawaii was one of only five grantees nationwide to receive a no-cost extension of the PY 2011 SCSEP federal grant. Extension for an additional quarter (until September 30, 2012) permits expenditure of remaining funds.
- b. All PY 2012 SCSEP subcontracts were executed effective July 1, 2012.

- c. The SCSEP State Plan is being developed with key partners (including the WDC and the LWIBs) who were asked to submit comments and recommendations. This Plan is due to USDOL on September 15, 2012.

6. University of Massachusetts, Institute for Community Inclusion Training

- a. WDD received one of four technical assistance grants from the University of Massachusetts, Institute for Community Inclusion. The grant provides training and tools to develop “universally designed” One-Stop Centers that empower all customers, including those with multiple barriers to employment such as individuals with disabilities, those with poor or no work history, others who are basic skills deficient, with low literacy skills, and/or with limited English proficiency to better access services. Besides job seeker customers, training on assessment and business engagement was also provided to enable staff to better serve employers.
- b. **July 9 & 10, 2012** - WDD hosted two training sessions in Honolulu on Maximizing Staff Knowledge to Improve Customer Flow, Increase Range of Job Seeker Services, and Further Develop Community Connections. These sessions helped identify common barriers for job seekers in the One-Stops and provided the framework for development of Community Resource Guides that list services to address these barriers to employment.
- c. **July 12 & 13, 2012** - Maui One-Stop staff received pilot training on development of Universal Designed Business Services. After assessment of the Maui One-Stop, training covered topics such as Marketing and Development of Business Services, Branding, Streamlining Current Offerings, Increasing Outreaching, and Building a Menu of Services for Business Partners.